AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-37. (cancelled)

38. (new) A method for dissolving a soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation that contains soluble thrombomodulin as an active ingredient, said method comprising:

dissolving said soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation in a dissolving aqueous solution in the presence of a nonionic surfactant, at least at the time of the dissolving, to obtain a solution containing soluble thrombomodulin, after the dissolving, at a concentration of 10 mg/mL or higher,

wherein said method prevents and/or inhibits air bubbles from being contained in the solution at the time of dissolving of said soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation.

39. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein said method prevents and/or inhibits the generation of air bubbles that form at the time of the addition of the dissolving aqueous solution to dissolve said soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation.

40. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein said air bubbles are minute air bubbles.

41. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the nonionic surfactant is present in the dissolving aqueous solution used for dissolving the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation or the nonionic surfactant is present in the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation.

42. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the solution containing soluble thrombomodulin exists in a container used in the dissolving step, an inner wall of which is coated with silicone.

43. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein pressure in the container to be used in dissolving the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation is kept at a reduced pressure.

44. (new) The method of claim 38, said method resulting in the solution containing soluble thrombomodulin having a soluble thromobomodulin concentration of 17 mg/mL or more.

45. (new) The method of claim 38, said method resulting in the solution containing soluble thrombomodulin having a soluble thromobomodulin concentration of 25 mg/mL or more.

46. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein a fluid volume of the solution containing soluble thrombomodulin by dissolution is in a range of 0.1 mL to 2 mL and has osmotic pressure ratio upon dissolution thereof in a range of 0.5 to 2.0.

47. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation contains at least one combination selected from the group consisting of:

(1) a combination containing two of glutamic acid or a salt thereof and mannitol,

(2) a combination containing two of glutamic acid or a salt thereof and lysine or a salt thereof,

(3) a combination containing two of glutamic acid or a salt thereof and asparaginic acid or a salt thereof, and

(4) a combination containing two of asparaginic acid or a salt thereof and mannitol; and

at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a nonionic surfactant, benzyl alcohol, and chlorobutanol is present in the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation and/or at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a nonionic surfactant, benzyl alcohol, and

chlorobutanol is present in the dissolving aqueous solution for dissolving the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation.

48. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation contains any one of: (1) urea, or (2) urea and an amino acid; and

at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a nonionic surfactant, benzyl alcohol, and chlorobutanol is present in the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation and/or at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a nonionic surfactant, benzyl alcohol, and chlorobutanol is present in the dissolving aqueous solution for dissolving the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation.

49. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation contains one or two compounds selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamic acid, proline, serine, glycine, histidine, asparagine, lysine, phenylalanine, and valine, or salts thereof, trehalose, lactose, and sucrose; and

at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a nonionic surfactant, benzyl alcohol, and chlorobutanol is present in the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried

preparation and/or at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a nonionic surfactant, benzyl alcohol, and chlorobutanol is present in the dissolving aqueous solution for dissolving the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation.

50. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the nonionic surfactant comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid ester, polyoxyethylene/polyoxypropylene copolymer, polyoxyethylene alkylether, polyoxyethylene fatty acid ester, and polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oil.

51. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the nonionic surfactant is present at an amount of 0.01 mg or more per 10 mg of the soluble thrombomodulin.

52. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation comprises a peptide that can be dissolved in water in a concentration of 30 mg/mL or more.

53. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation comprises a peptide containing one of the following sequences, has an action

of promoting activation of protein C with thrombin, and can be dissolved in the absence of a surfactant:

i) an amino acid sequence at positions 19 to 516 of SEQ ID NO. 1 in a sequence listing;

ii) an amino acid sequence at positions 19 to 516 of SEQ ID NO. 5 in the sequence listing; and

iii) an amino acid sequence obtained by addition of, deletion of, or substitution with at least one amino acid in the amino acid sequence of the (i) or (ii).

54. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein said soluble thrombomodulin-containing solution can be used for intramuscular or subcutaneous injection.

55. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein said soluble thrombomodulin-containing solution has a volume of 0.1 to 2.0 ml.

56. (new) A method for preventing and/or inhibiting generation of air bubbles at the time of dissolving a soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation that contains soluble thrombomodulin as an active ingredient, said method comprising:

dissolving said soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation in the presence of a nonionic surfactant, at least at the time of the dissolving, to obtain a solution

containing soluble thrombomodulin, after the dissolving, at a concentration of 10 mg/mL or higher, and

wherein said method prevents and/or inhibits air bubbles from being contained in the solution at the time of dissolving of said soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation that contains soluble thrombomodulin.

57. (new) A method for manufacturing a solution containing a soluble thrombomodulin at a concentration of 10 mg/mL or higher in which air bubbles are prevented from being contained, said method comprising:

dissolving said soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation that contains soluble thrombomodulin in the presence of a nonionic surfactant, at least at the time of the dissolving, to obtain a solution containing soluble thrombomodulin, after the dissolving, at a concentration of 10 mg/mL or higher, and

wherein said method prevents and/or inhibits air bubbles from being contained in the solution at the time of dissolving of said soluble thrombomodulin-containing freeze-dried preparation that contains soluble thrombomodulin.